Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
- 1952
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR RELEASE
AUG. 11, P. M.

THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

Reserve
1.9
EC752F

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-160 BAE JULY-AUGUST 1952

To house a given number of pullets, farmers now start fewer chicks than they did 20 years ago.

This is partly because of competition from the broiler industry, which has made byproduct cockerels and pullets sold for meat relatively less profitable. Therefore, farmers now buy about one-third of their chicks as sexed pullets, and the poultry industry has otherwise improved breeding, feeding, and management so as to assure a larger proportion of mature pullets acceptable for housing as part of the laying flock.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1941-50	1951	1952	Month or date	Average 1941-50	1951	1952	Comments on current situation
EGGS										
Farm production	Mil. doz.	May	500.9	490.1	498.6	June	416.3	421.7	419.3	Now running below last year
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	May	338.6	320.0	326.2	June	319.7	304.0	308.6	
Rate of lay per 100 layers	Eggs	May	17.8	18.4	18.3	June	15.6	16.6	16.3	
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Eggs	May	31.3	32.3	34.8	June	28.9	31.1	31.8	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	May	77.5	74.8	62.8	June	53.9	39.7	41.3	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	May	16.6	3.6	2.0	June	15.6	2.7	1.4	10-year average boosted by Government buying
Price received by farmers	Ct.per doz.	June	34.2	44.7	35.7	July	36.9	46.6	43.3	
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	June	99	94	78	July	96	91	88	
Retail price (BAE)	Ct.per doz.	May	45.9	64.5	52.2	June	47.8	65.5	54.0	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	June	11.1	11.3	8.5	July	11.7	11.8	10.3	Improved greatly from June to July
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous.cases	June 1	5.8	2.1	3.2	July 1	6.6	2.4	3.3	Large withdrawals from these stocks have already begun
Frozen	Mil. lb.	June 1	215.9	162.7	145.9	July 1	251.4	190.0	165.9	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	May	247.3	271.0	216.3	June	117.4	142.9	115.2	Small late hatch for laying flock replacement
Chicks and young chickens on farms	Millions	June 1	565.6	522.9	488.8	July 1	574.5	508.2	466.7	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol.per cwt.	June	3.16	3.95	4.21	July	3.24	3.95	4.18	
POULTRY										
Price received by farmers for all chickens, including broilers, live	Ct. per lb.	June	25.7	28.6	24.7	July	26.0	28.1	26.0	Composite of high broiler prices, low prices for farm chickens
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity 1/	Percent	June	113	91	76	July	115	90	80	
Retail price of chickens, dressed (BAE)	Ct. per lb.	May	45.1	56.8	50.1	June	44.3	54.6	51.9	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	June	28.7	35.8	32.3	July	29.5	35.3	31.9	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	June 1	68.4	77.4	122.4	July 1	66.2	73.4	118.1	)
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	June 1	46.0	47.9	63.3	July 1	39.8	39.0	56.3	) Large for the season
Chicken-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	June	8.3	7.2	5.9	July	8.2	7.1	6.2	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	June	9.2	9.1	7.7	July	9.2	8.9	7.6	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 11 broiler areas	Millions	June	---	14.6	11.6	July	---	11.0	2/10.2	October marketings will be lowest since February

1/ For 1941-50, these prices as a percentage of parity are based on unrevised chicken prices.
2/ 4 weeks.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, July 28, 1952

SUMMARY

Abnormally hot weather in June and July over much of the country reduced egg production, and after mid-June prices rose much faster than the usual seasonal rate. By mid-July, farmers' prices averaged 43.3 cents per dozen, within 7 percent of corresponding 1951 prices. Many grades in Eastern wholesale markets in mid-July were priced about the same as a year earlier, although part of the gain in prices was lost later in the month. During most of the first half of this year, farmers' prices had averaged about 18 percent below a year earlier.

Egg production ran 5 percent ahead of 1951 during the first 5 months of 1952, but June output was 1 percent below last year. July output is likely also to be reduced since on the first of the month U. S. production was 3 percent below last July 1.

The protracted hot weather also had adverse effects upon egg quality, and the sharpest price rises were for the better grades. The price rises would have been even more pronounced but for the withdrawals from storage. These began late in June, somewhat earlier than usual.

In mid-July, broiler prices averaging 29.2 cents per pound were at almost the highest levels of the year to date, although still not especially favorable to producers. United States average prices for farm chickens, 21.7 cents per pound, were about the same as in mid-June, but otherwise the lowest since last October. Turkey prices also were little changed from the month before, and otherwise the lowest in about 18 months.

Although storage stocks of both chickens and turkeys are nearing their season low points, they remain considerably larger than last year. Accordingly, they are holding down prices of the classes of poultry for which storage is important. Broiler marketings in the next few months will decline because of slightly reduced chick placements. Consequently, broiler prices for the next month or two may continue high compared with their usual relation to farm chickens and to turkeys.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Shell Egg Prices Rise; Some Wholesale Markets at 1951 Levels

Shell egg prices rose sharply in late June and through mid-July. In eastern wholesale markets the prices of top grades rose 25 cents per dozen from mid-June to mid-July, reaching levels above a year earlier. Prices for current receipt eggs in Iowa rose about 7 cents in the same period, also exceeding year-ago levels. Prices for futures contracts also rose by about 5 or 6 cents, but remained below a year ago. After July 15 there were some price declines, but prices remained relatively higher, even after considering seasonal adjustment, than they had been during the spring.

The price rise for the top grades was probably a record for this season of the year. In New York City, nearby whites rose 25 cents per dozen in about 4 weeks. After a peak of 70-71 cents was reached for such eggs, they dropped back to about 57 cents per dozen in late July.

The protracted abnormally hot weather over many areas of the country is one of several factors influencing the price rise. Since late June, the unusual heat has reduced rate of lay, reduced the proportion of market receipts which are of top quality, and even resulted in death losses in laying flocks.

The reduced output came at a time when per capita consumption had been high, encouraged by the low egg prices that had been in effect through the spring. Consumption habits and patterns thus formed during months of low egg prices did not change as abruptly as production, and the heavy demand for immediate use reduced the flow of eggs to storage, from which the out-movement began in the week ending June 28. The demand for the limited supplies drove prices to abnormally high levels, from which they declined toward the end of the month. From the late July levels, the outlook is for some further seasonal price rise.

If the decline in rate of lay (from the level of a year ago) follows the pattern of the last such midsummer decline in 1949, the rate is likely to remain low for another month or so. However, the monthly rate of production may again reach or exceed 1951 levels by October when the large numbers of early-hatched pullets should be in production. By the end of the calendar year, however, production may again fall below 1951, because of the fewer late-hatched pullets.

The Government's egg purchase program, under which 226 thousand cases were bought, was concluded in June. When delivered this fall, the eggs will be donated to the school lunch program. Although the purchases were less than 1 percent of the total U. S. farm production of eggs in May and June, the months in which the program was active, the purchases were of high quality and they comprised a larger proportion of the supply of that quality of egg.

Prices of frozen egg have moved upward with the increase in shell egg prices. Frozen albumen, which 4 months ago was about 60 percent of the price of frozen whole egg, was selling in late July at about the same price per pound as frozen whole egg. At this level, albumen was priced higher than a year earlier, but yolk and whole egg were still somewhat cheaper than in July 1951. Comparable 1951 and 1952 prices are shown in Table 2. Through July, the prices of separated yolk and albumen brought a considerable premium over the price of a comparable quantity of whole egg.

Table 1.- Eggs: Selected farm, wholesale, and retail prices, per dozen, June-July 1952, with comparisons

Date	Farm prices: U. S. average 1/	Farm prices: Iowa 2/: Current receipts	Farm prices: Iowa 2/: Grade A, large	Wholesale prices: Chicago: Large extras, mixed colors	Wholesale prices: New York: Midwestern large extras, mixed colors	Wholesale prices: New York: Nearby whites, fancy, heavy weights	Wholesale prices: Los Angeles: Grade A, large (cases)	Retail prices: U. S. average (BAE) 1/	Retail prices: New York whites, Grade A and AA, large and extra large 3/	Futures contracts, Chicago, October delivery 4/
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1951										
June										
1		35-36	41-42	45½-46	51	57½	54-55		73.00	51.25
8		36-38	41-43	48½-50	52-52½	58½	54½-55		76.00	53.10
15	44.7	36-38	41-43	50-50½	53	59	56-57	65.5	76.00	53.15
22		38-39	45-46	54-55	56	63	57-58		77.00	53.50
29		38-40	46-47	51-52	52½-53	65	57-58		79.00	50.60
July										
6		35-37	42-43	49½-50½	52	63	55½-56½		81.00	49.25
13	46.7	33-36	40-41	49½-50½	50	65	54-56	67.3	81.00	50.70
20		35-36	41-43	53½-54½	52	64	55-56½		81.00	51.70
27		35-36	45	53-54	53	66	58-59		81.00	50.85
Aug.										
3		35-36	46-47	53½-55	54½	69	60		82.00	51.60
10	49.6	35-38	44-48	57-57½	56	75	61	71.9	84.00	51.95
17		36-38	49-50	57-58	56	67	62		89.00	51.80
1952										
June										
6		28-29	31-33	40-40½	40½-41	44-44½	41-45		59.00	44.65
13		29-30	33	38-39	40½	45-45½	45-47		59.00	44.15
20	35.7	28-29	32-34	38½-39½	40½-41	48-48½	45-49	54.0	61.00	44.95
27		29-30	34-35	42-44½	41½-42	53	46-52		61.00	45.65
July										
3		30-31	35-38	46-46½	44	60	48		68.00	47.10
11		32-34	41-43	50½-52	47-48	70	52-57		75.00	49.00
18	43.3	35-37	45-47	56-58	51½	63-63½	58		85.00	49.75
25		37-38	45-46	51-52½	50	55-55½	57		83.00	49.00

1/ Middle of month. 2/ "Mostly". 3/ Average for the week. 4/ In 1951, this contract closed at 47.25 cents per dozen.

Table 2.- Prices of frozen egg products at wholesale in New York City, per pound, 1941 to date

Year	Frozen whole	Frozen yolk	Frozen albumen	Price ratio: Albumen to yolk	Price ratio: Albumen to whole
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent
1941	22.1	32.6	14.4	44	65
1942	23.1	39.4	21.3	54	76
1943	32.4	45.5	24.2	53	75
1944	31.1	46.8	22.3	48	72
1945	31.4	46.4	23.8	51	76
1946	29.8	46.0	21.8	47	73
1947	34.6	49.5	28.3	57	82
1948	35.6	43.8	34.7	79	97
1949	37.0	53.3	29.1	55	79
1950	28.7	53.0	15.2	29	53
1951	36.1	59.4	25.1	42	70
Jan.	1/34.7	55.0	22.3	41	64
Feb.	34.6	55.5	22.8	41	66
Mar.	35.8	56.9	25.6	45	72
Apr.	36.3	56.8	25.5	45	70
May	38.1	61.1	26.6	44	70
June	36.8	61.7	25.2	41	68
July	36.4	61.4	24.6	40	68
Aug.	36.4	61.0	24.8	41	68
1952					
Jan.	2/33.0	60.2	2/25.0	42	76
Feb.	3/29.0	4/50.9	3/20.2	40	70
Mar.	28.2	51.2	17.4	34	62
Apr.	28.8	52.4	17.6	34	61
May	29.3	51.8	19.4	37	66
June	30.7	50.6	22.7	45	74
July 5/:					
4	31.2	50.2	6/28.7	57	92
11	31.4	50.8	6/31.6	62	101
18	33.2	51.5	6/33.7	65	102
25	33.2	51.5	6/33.5	65	101

1/ Fresh pack.
2/ Spring pack.
3/ Current pack.
4/ Light color.
5/ Averages for weeks ending on specified dates.
6/ Carlots not quoted. Prices given are for L.C.L. Price ratios may accordingly slightly overstate value of albumen relative to yolk and whole.

Table 3.- Frozen egg: Prices of yolk, albumen, and mixed whole egg, New York City, and values of the yield from 1 case of shell eggs, by months, January 1951 to date

Month	Separated yolk and albumen					Frozen whole egg		Greater value of separated components of 1 case of eggs over equivalent of whole egg
	Yolk		Albumen		Combined value of 17.36 pounds yolk and 21.36 pounds albumen 1/			
	Price per pound	Value of 17.36 pounds 1/	Price per pound	Value of 21.36 pounds 1/		Price per pound	Value of 38.72 pounds 1/	
	Cents	Dol.	Cents	Dol.	Dol.	Cents	Dol.	Dol.
1951								
Jan.	55.0	9.55	21.5	4.59	14.14	34.7	13.44	.70
Feb.	55.5	9.63	22.8	4.87	14.50	34.6	13.40	1.10
Mar.	56.9	9.88	25.6	5.47	15.35	35.8	13.86	1.49
Apr.	56.8	9.86	25.5	5.45	15.31	36.3	14.06	1.25
May	61.1	10.61	26.6	5.68	16.29	38.1	14.75	1.54
June	61.7	10.71	25.2	5.38	16.09	36.8	14.25	1.84
July	61.4	10.66	24.6	5.25	15.91	36.4	14.09	1.82
Aug.	61.0	10.59	24.8	5.30	15.89	36.4	14.09	1.80
Sept.	60.5	10.50	24.6	5.25	15.75	36.5	14.13	1.62
Oct.	60.6	10.52	25.9	5.53	16.05	36.5	14.13	1.92
Nov.	61.0	10.59	26.0	5.55	16.14	35.5	13.75	2.39
Dec.	61.4	10.66	27.9	5.96	16.62	35.5	13.75	2.87
1952								
Jan.	60.2	10.45	25.0	5.34	15.79	33.0	12.78	3.01
Feb.	50.9	8.84	20.2	4.31	13.15	29.0	11.23	1.92
Mar.	51.2	8.89	17.4	3.72	12.61	28.2	10.92	1.69
Apr.	52.4	9.10	17.6	3.76	12.86	28.8	11.15	1.71
May	51.8	8.99	19.4	4.14	13.13	29.3	11.34	1.79
June	50.6	8.78	22.7	4.85	13.63	30.7	11.89	1.74
July 2/:								
4	50.2	8.71	3/28.7	6.13	14.84	31.2	12.08	2.76
11	50.8	8.82	3/31.6	6.75	15.57	31.4	12.16	3.41
18	51.5	8.94	3/33.7	7.20	16.14	33.2	12.86	3.28
25	51.5	8.94	3/33.5	7.16	16.10	33.2	12.86	3.24

1/ These quantities are the average yield from 1 case of shell eggs in spring-time breaking operations.
2/ Average for weeks ending on specified dates.
3/ Carlots not quoted. Prices given are for L.C.L.

Table 4.- Eggs: Parity prices and factors involved in parity price computations, by months, January 1951 to date with seasonal adjustment factors to June 1953.

Month and year	(1) Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100) 1/	(2) Parity price per dozen 2/	(3) Seasonal adjustment factor	(4) U. S. average farm price per dozen equal to 100 percent of parity 3/	(5) Reported farm price Per dozen	(6) As a percentage of parity
		Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents	Percent
1951						
Jan.	266	51.5	101	52.0	42.6	82
Feb.	268	51.8	89	46.1	41.4	90
Mar.	271	52.5	87	45.7	43.7	96
Apr.	272	52.6	87	45.8	43.2	94
May	273	52.8	87	45.9	45.2	98
June	274	53.0	90	47.7	44.7	94
July	273	52.8	97	51.2	46.6	91
Aug.	273	52.8	103	54.4	49.6	91
Sept.	273	52.8	112	59.1	55.0	93
Oct.	274	53.0	118	62.5	55.6	89
Nov.	275	53.2	117	62.2	56.5	91
Dec.	276	53.4	116	61.9	51.1	83
1952						
Jan.	277	50.7	99	50.2	40.5	81
Feb.	278	50.8	87	44.2	34.6	78
Mar.	277	50.7	87	44.1	33.9	77
Apr.	277	50.7	87	44.1	35.2	80
May 4/	278	50.7	87	44.1	34.2	78
June 4/	278	50.7	90	45.6	35.7	78
July	277	50.7	97	45.6	43.3	88
Aug.			103			
Sept.			112			
Oct.			117			
Nov.			117			
Dec.			117			
1953						
Jan.			96			
Feb.			87			
Mar.			87			
Apr.			87			
May			89			
June			91			

1/ Through 1952, the appropriate index is that of prices paid, including interest and taxes. In 1953, the modernized parity computation is likely to supersede the present transitional parity for eggs and at that time the appropriate index will be that of prices paid including interest, taxes, and wage rates. 2/ In 1951, Index of Prices Paid times Base Price (21.5 cents per dozen) divided by 100 minus 10 percent on account of transitional parity. In 1952, same formula except minus 15 percent on account of an additional year transpiring in the transitional parity sequence. Ih 1953, transitional parity for eggs is likely to be superseded by modernized parity, which will have a different base price. 3/ Column (2) X column (3). 4/ Revised.

Rate of Lay Down on July 1;
Four Percent Below 1951

Hot weather over most of the United States sharply reduced the late-June rate of lay per 100 layers. Coupled with a substantial reduction in the number of layers on hand, this resulted in a June egg production of 14.0 million cases, 16 percent less than a month earlier. Compared with a year earlier output was down 1 percent.

The monthly output is computed on the basis of the average of reports for the beginning and end of the month. The report for July 1, representative of the end of June, showed a rate of lay 4 percent lower than a year earlier, and a number of layers 1 percent above last July 1. (At the beginning of June the rate of lay had been 1 percent below a year earlier, and the number of layers 2 percent above.)

In 1949, the other most recent year when the June rate-of-lay was below the preceding June, the rate remained below a year earlier in July and August. For each September since 1946, however, the rate of lay has been above the same month of the year before; it has been above the preceding October in every year since 1942.

During June, the number of birds in laying flocks was reduced 18.4 million, compared with 13.7 million in June 1951. Until June, the culling rate had not been sharply different from the year before. The number of layers on June 1 were 75.1 percent of the January 1 potential layers, while in 1951 the June 1 number was 75.8 percent of the January 1 figure.

To June 1, culling was not ahead of last year, despite the low egg prices. The inducement to culling that would oridinarily be expected from low egg prices was probably offset by the facts that egg production was at a high rate, and fowl prices were low. During June, as rate of lay declined, many farmers evidently decided to sell hens. With the rise in egg prices since June 1, however, farmers may cull fewer birds. If this happens, the decline in total monthly egg output from a year earlier may be lessened even before the early-hatched pullets are added to laying flocks.

Shell Egg Storage Profitable:
Stocks Larger than Last Year

On July 1, 3.3 million cases of shell eggs were in cold storage in the U. S. This is very likely to be the first-of-month peak for this year. In the 35 cities which report weekly, there have been net out-movements from storage since the week ending June 28.

While July 1 holdings of shell eggs were 909 thousand cases larger than last year's small holdings, and 1,043 thousand cases more than in 1949, they were otherwise the lowest since records were begun. Not all

of the July 1 stocks were available for commercial use, since some were Government-owned, and others were earmarked for later delivery to the Department of Agriculture.

Table 5.- July 1 storage holdings of shell eggs, 1951 and 1952

Item	1951	1952
	Thousand cases	Thousand cases
Total	2,427	3,333
Government owned	298	206
Contracted for later delivery to U.S.D.A.	---	226

Prices for eggs in early July made withdrawals quite profitable, since the holdings had been accumulated at a much lower price level. Even storers who had hedged their holdings benefited from the 17 cent rise in the Chicago price for extras from June 1 to July 15, since futures in the same period rose only about 6 cents. Storage operations which had been closed by mid-July were generally very profitable. The net in-movement of shell eggs in June, 149 thousand cases was, by coincidence, the same as the 149 thousand cases bought in June by the Department of Agriculture under its surplus removal program. Contracts let in June under this program provided that the eggs must be stored before July 1 for later delivery to the Government. Assuming that no vendors had made their June sales to the Government from eggs already in storage by June 1, it seems that net commercial in-movement of shell eggs in June may have been nil.

Table 6.- Shell eggs: Purchases by U. S. D. A. under surplus removal program, May and June, 1952

Date of purchase: week ending	Delivery date					
	Sept. 2	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	Total	Cumulative total
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
May 3	---	---	---	---	---	0
May 10	6,000	600	---	---	6,600	6,600
May 17	10,940	5,700	---	---	16,640	23,240
May 24	27,450	15,500	1,200	---	44,150	67,390
May 31	7,920	2,460	---	---	10,380	77,770
June 7	6,692	15,360	---	---	22,052	99,822
June 14	11,700	6,360	---	---	18,060	117,882
June 21	33,497	16,800	3,840	---	54,137	172,019
June 28	20,940	20,540	11,960	1,000	54,440	226,459
Total	125,139	83,320	17,000	1.000	226,459	

Holdings of frozen egg, at 166 million pounds on July 1, were 24 million pounds smaller than a year earlier. By mid-July, weekly in-movements in 35 markets had been reduced to a very low rate, and it is possible that the August 1 holdings will be little if any higher than the July 1 figure. In 4 of the past 7 years, peak first-of-month holdings have come at the beginning of July; the remainder have been on the first of August. Before 1945, the peak was invariably August 1.

Since March, 1952 production of frozen egg has been below 1951. However, the January 1 stocks were 20 million pounds greater this year than last which kept 1952 stocks above 1951 levels for the first 5 months of the year. Since the beginning of June, however, 1952 stocks of frozen egg have lagged behind a year earlier.

On July 1, combined stocks of shell and frozen egg (shell egg equivalent) were 104 percent of a year earlier.

Dried Eggs Sold

On June 19 the Commodity Credit Corporation announced the sale of its entire remaining stocks of dried egg. The quantity of 4 1/2 million pounds was sold for export, at prices ranging from 20 to 38 cents per pound. The only egg stocks now owned by or under contract to the Production and Marketing Administration are the 226,459 cases of shell eggs scheduled for delivery in September through December.

7 Percent Fewer Chickens Raised;
Smaller Decrease Seen for 1953 Layers

Seven percent fewer chickens are being raised for laying flock replacement in 1952 than were raised in 1951. The preliminary estimate shows that 617 million chickens are being raised this year against 663 million last year.

The greatest percentage reductions are occurring in the West North Central, South Central, and East North Central Regions where the respective declines are 12, 8, and 7 percent. The cut in the East and West North Central Regions is about 30 million birds, 65 percent of the net reduction for the U. S. No regions show increases, although the estimated decline for the North Atlantic States is only 1 percent, and, within that region, the 6 New England States and New Jersey indicate increases, which are more than offset by decreases in Pennsylvania and New York.

In 1952, the reduction from the year before in chickens raised occurred in placements from the late-season hatch. The number of young chickens on farms April 1, 1952 was 9 percent larger than on the same date of 1951. This early season increase is likely to be reflected in a larger number of birds laying about October. Because of the reduced late hatch, however, the number of potential layers at the end of the year is likely to be below January 1, 1952.

The percentage reduction in layers, however, is not likely to be as great as the reduction in chickens raised. First of all, about a third of the potential layers are hens which are not affected by the number of chickens raised. Then, the standards by which pullets are judged are flexible, and evidently more lenient in the years when fewer pullets are available for housing as layers. Finally, there is a long term trend, illustrated on the cover chart, toward a larger number of pullet layers retained per 100 chickens raised.

If past trends, based on relationships shown in tables 7 and 8, are borne out, the January 1 flock of potential layers is likely to be about 3 to 5 percent smaller than in 1952. So far as 1953 egg production is concerned, as much as half of this deficiency in numbers of potential layers may be offset by a higher rate of lay.

Table 7.- Potential layers, January 1, 1931 to date

Year	Potential layers on farms, January 1				Hens as a percentage of	
	Hens	Pullets		Total	Total potential layers	Pullets previous January 1
		Laying	Not yet laying			
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
1931	158,214	197,581	45,981	401,776	39.4	---
1932	156,178	185,419	44,229	385,826	40.5	64.1
1933	154,037	192,011	44,695	390,743	39.4	67.1
1934	146,997	196,004	42,340	385,341	38.1	62.1
1935	138,609	171,903	39,895	350,407	39.6	58.2
1936	136,187	186,093	40,339	362,619	37.6	64.3
1937	130,445	209,815	39,494	379,754	34.3	57.6
1938	137,958	173,130	41,876	352,964	39.1	55.3
1939	134,331	194,106	47,704	376,141	35.7	62.5
1940	139,079	202,483	51,093	392,655	35.4	57.5
1941	141,430	192,296	47,589	381,315	37.1	55.8
1942	150,170	220,842	56,899	427,911	35.1	62.6
1943	170,337	255,321	63,301	488,959	34.8	61.3
1944	174,000	282,183	67,404	523,587	33.2	54.6
1945	172,426	254,498	46,956	473,880	36.4	49.3
1946	150,712	269,303	52,805	472,820	31.9	50.0
1947	150,490	243,931	37,025	431,446	34.9	46.7
1948	139,587	242,785	35,198	417,570	33.4	49.7
1949	141,044	227,145	31,191	399,380	35.3	50.7
1950	137,014	254,557	32,202	423,773	32.3	53.0
1951	146,340	233,717	30,143	410,200	35.7	51.0
1952	144,312	246,957	31,956	423,225	34.1	54.7

Table 8.- Chickens raised and pullets on farms, 1930 to date. (Including data for cover chart)

Year	Chickens raised		Pullets on farms Jan. 1 following				Pullets Jan. 1 following, per 100 chickens raised
	Number	Percentage of previous year	Laying	Not laying	Total Number	Total Percentage of previous year	
	Mil.	Percent	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Percent	Number
1930	777.0		197.6	46.0	243.6		31.4
1931	709.4	91	185.4	44.2	229.6	94	32.4
1932	735.5	103	192.0	44.7	236.7	103	32.2
1933	750.1	102	196.0	42.3	238.3	101	31.8
1934	644.4	86	171.9	39.9	211.8	89	32.9
1935	658.3	102	186.1	40.3	226.4	107	34.4
1936	715.0	109	209.8	39.5	249.3	110	34.9
1937	601.1	84	173.1	41.9	215.0	86	35.8
1938	650.7	108	194.1	47.7	241.8	112	37.2
1939	696.7	107	202.5	51.1	253.6	105	36.4
1940	633.7	91	192.3	47.6	239.9	95	37.9
1941	745.0	118	220.8	56.9	277.7	116	37.3
1942	844.3	113	255.3	63.3	318.6	115	37.7
1943	1,001.4	119	282.2	67.4	349.6	110	34.9
1944	832.1	83	254.5	47.0	301.5	86	36.2
1945	890.4	107	269.3	52.8	322.1	107	36.2
1946	737.6	83	244.0	37.0	281.0	87	38.1
1947	719.4	98	242.8	35.2	278.0	99	38.6
1948	615.1	86	227.1	31.2	258.3	93	42.0
1949	705.1	115	254.6	32.2	286.8	111	40.7
1950	635.1	90	233.7	30.2	263.9	92	41.6
1951	663.5	104	247.0	31.9	278.9	106	41.8
1952 1/	617.2	93					

1/ Preliminary

Table 9.- Composition of baby chick purchases by farmers (excluding those for specialized broilers), available data 1943 to date

Year	Straight run	Pullet chicks	Cockerel chicks
	Percent	Percent	Percent
1943	77	17	5
1944	75	20	5
1945	77	18	5
1946	73	22	4
1947	70	26	4
1948	66	30	4
1949	65	31	4
1950	63	32	5
1951	62	33	5
1952 1/	62	34	4

1/ Intended composition of purchases, as reported in February

Poultry Prices Show Mixed Trends; Storage Stocks Large

Poultry price trends were mixed for several weeks preceding mid-July. Broiler prices, after dipping to very low levels in early May, rose to about the highest levels of the year at mid-July. In Virginia and California, prices of young small turkeys--commonly called turkey fryers--were the lowest of the year to date, selling at under 30 cents per pound. Farmers' prices for chickens were also low. For example, prices for hens in Iowa were 16-18 cents per pound.

Marketings of broilers are now considerably below the 1952 peak. Further declines will occur since the weekly rate of broiler placements has been decreasing. Reduced supplies of broilers in the next few months will to some extent be offset by seasonally-increasing supplies of farm-produced chickens and turkeys, and by the relatively large storage stocks of poultry.

July 1 or August 1 is the usual seasonal low point for storage holdings of chicken. On July 1 this year, holdings of "all poultry exclusive of turkeys and ducks" were 108 million pounds, contrasted with 66 million last year, an average of 54 million pounds in the 3 preceding years, and an average of 85 million pounds in 1944-47 when meat shortages encouraged greater holdings of poultry. The high present level of storage holdings will tend to discourage a large net accumulation of chicken meat in storage this year, and supplies for current consumption would accordingly be increased. On the other hand, current low prices for many types of poultry will encourage speculative storage.

Somewhat the same seasonal storage pattern exists with respect to turkeys, but the low point of storage holdings usually comes a little later in the year, about September 1. July 1 stocks this year were 56 million pounds, compared with a 1948-50 average of 40 million for the same date, and 39 million pounds for July 1, 1951. The turkey trade is planning extensive promotions to reduce the storage holdings before heavy marketings of the large crop begin.

Table 10.- Broilers: Average weekly rate of placements, 11 specialized areas, by months, 1951 and 1952

Month	1951	1952	Month	1951	1952
	Thous.	Thous.		Thous.	Thous.
January	9,275	11,790	July	11,607	1/10,176
February	11,217	13,872	August	8,036	
March	11,503	13,484	September	9,079	
April	12,215	12,046	October	8,819	
May	12,138	11,277	November	9,891	
June	11,607	11,249	December	10,603	

1/ 4 weeks.

Table 11.- Chickens and turkeys: Monthly cold storage holdings and net movements, January 1951 to date

Month	1951		1952	
	Holdings at beginning of month	Net movement	Holdings at beginning of month	Net movement
	Thous. pounds	Thous. pounds	Thous. pounds	Thous. pounds
		a. Chickens 1/		
January	2/ 163,034	-2,090	187,134	-9,757
February	160,944	-24,869	177,377	-17,582
March	136,075	-26,102	159,795	-22,996
April	109,973	-25,082	136,799	-17,506
May	84,891	-11,698	119,293	-3,579
June	73,193	-6,702	115,714	-7,519
July	3/ 66,491	606	108,195	
August	67,097	16,589		
September	83,686	26,925		
October	110,611	52,851		
November	163,462	26,300		
December	2/ 189,762	-2,628		
		b. Turkeys		
January	110,110	6,786	106,766	9,586
February	2/ 116,896	-15,430	2/ 116,352	-9,808
March	101,466	-20,966	106,544	-13,183
April	80,500	-20,604	93,361	-20,900
May	59,896	-11,948	72,461	-9,133
June	47,948	-8,966	63,328	-6,998
July	38,982	-9,170	56,330	
August	29,812	-4,983		
September	3/ 24,829	16,779		
October	41,608	41,490		
November	83,098	26,156		
December	109,254	-2,488		

1/ Total poultry excluding turkeys and ducks.
2/ Season peak
3/ Season low.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-PES-
Permit No. 1001

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY
12-22-49
FNS-6

Prospect for Larger Feed Supplies

Feed crop prospects at the beginning of July were good, and a corn crop almost 15 percent larger than a year ago was indicated. Although the large corn crop in prospect and the reduced hog population indicate lower corn prices after harvest, the extent of the decline will be limited by the $1.60 per bushel (U. S. average basis) loan level for corn 1/, and the possibility that numbers of other classes of livestock will be expanded.

Supplies of feed concentrates per animal unit for 1952-53, on the basis of current estimates, will be slightly larger than a year earlier.

---------- 0 ----------

Egg prices in the Argentine in the first 6 months of 1952 reached record levels, as much as 4 times as high as in 1951. The high point in June was equivalent to 79-86 cents (U.S.) at wholesale, and $1.15-$1.30 (U.S.) per dozen at retail. During the normal into-storage season late in 1951 (during the Argentine spring) there was little storage activity with wholesale prices then equivalent to 16 cents (U.S.) per dozen.

- Foreign Crops and Markets
July 14, 1952 p. 43

1/ On a comparable basis, the U. S. average farm price in mid-July was $1.73 per bushel.